

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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DIRECTION 52

Determination of the gender to be attributed to the generic names *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821 (Class Amphibia) and *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834 (Class Reptilia) placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 92*

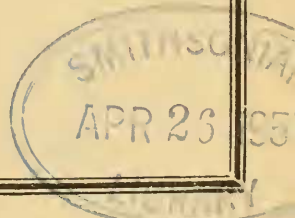
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN DIRECTION 52

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(*arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*)

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Doc. Dr. Ferdinand PRANTL (*Národní Museum v Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia*) (30th October 1954)

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Professor F. S. BODENHEIMER (*The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel*) (11th November 1954)

Professor Ernest MAYR (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (4th December 1954)

Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

DIRECTION 52

DETERMINATION OF THE GENDER TO BE ATTRIBUTED
TO THE GENERIC NAMES "CRYPTOBRANCHUS"
LEUCKART, 1821 (CLASS AMPHIBIA) AND
"EREMIAS" WIEGMANN, 1834 (CLASS REPTILIA)
PLACED ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC
NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" BY THE RULING
GIVEN IN "OPINION" 92

RULING :—(1) The gender to be attributed to the generic name *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821 (Class Amphibia), placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 92 is hereby determined as being the masculine gender.

(2) The gender to be attributed to the generic name *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834 (Class Reptilia) placed on the foregoing *Official List* by the Ruling given in the *Opinion* specified in (1) above is hereby determined as being the feminine gender.

I. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT " DIRECTION "

On 23rd January 1956, Mr. Francis Hemming, as Secretary, submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature the following paper containing proposals for the determination of the gender to be attributed to the generic names *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821 (Class Amphibia) and *Eremias*

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Wiegmann, 1834 (Class Reptilia), both of which had been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Proposed determination of the gender to be attributed to the generic names “*Cryptobranchus*” Leuckart, 1821 (Class Amphibia) and “*Eremias*” Wiegmann, 1834 (Class Reptilia)

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

The Commission will recall that on 4th May 1955, in a paper numbered Z.N.(S.) 939, I submitted proposals for the determination of the gender to be assigned to the names of certain genera of fishes, cyclostomes, reptiles and amphibia which had been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by Rulings given in *Opinions* adopted in the pre-Lisbon (1935) period. In that paper I explained that the gender properly attributable to the name *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821 (Class Amphibia) and *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834 (Class Reptilia) were still under investigation and that proposals on this subject would be submitted as soon as the investigations then in hand had been completed (see *Direction* 30, published on 16th November 1955, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 1(C) : 287—298). In the present paper the result of the foregoing investigations is submitted to the Commission for consideration.

(a) “*Cryptobranchus*” Leuckart, 1821

2. In the Report on the gender attributable to each of the names placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936, initially obtained by the International Trust from Mr. F. J. Lelievre (at that time on the Classical Languages staff of Bedford College, London University) the masculine gender was assigned to the generic name *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821. The Copenhagen Rules contain no special provision as to the gender of nouns having a “-branchus” ending and for this reason and because of the “-us” termination the masculine gender was suggested when this case was referred to Dr. W. I. Follett (*Chairman of the Committee on Nomenclature of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists*) for advice. Dr. Follett replied on 15th February 1955 giving his reasons for regarding this name as being of the neuter gender, but adding that usage had been predominantly masculine (see Document (1) in Annexe A to the present paper). It was thereupon decided to seek the views (i) of Professor the Rev. L. W. Grensted, *Consulting Classical Adviser to the Commission* and (ii) of Commissioner Robert

Mertens (*Frankfurt a.M.*). Each of these authorities replied that the acceptance of the masculine gender for this name was to be preferred on grounds both of grammar and usage. The letters received from Professor Grensted and Commissioner Mertens are reproduced as Documents (2) and (3) respectively in Annexe A to the present paper. Since the receipt of the foregoing correspondence a letter dated 9th December 1955 has been received from Dr. Follett reporting, as Chairman, that the Committee on Nomenclature of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists as at present constituted "has voted unanimously in favour of treating as masculine every generic name having the final term *-branchus* obviously derived from the corresponding Greek word". In the same letter Dr. Follett furnished extracts from letters received from the three members of the Committee, whose views had not previously been reported to the Commission, namely:—(a) Dr. Robert Rush Miller (*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*), who considers that the action proposed is the "wisest course"; (b) Dr. Jay M. Savage (*Pomona College, Claremont, California*), who states that he is in "whole-hearted agreement"; (c) Mr. Norman J. Wilimovsky (*Stanford University, California*), who states that he "will vote in favor" of the action recommended.

3. In the light of the advice received the Commission is recommended to give a Ruling that the masculine gender be attributed to the generic name *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821, in the entry relating thereto made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 92*.

(b) "Eremias" Wiegmann, 1834

4. The gender attributed to the generic name *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834, in Mr. Lelievre's Report was the masculine gender. When, however, I consulted Mr. Follett, he replied that there had been an extensive usage of the feminine gender for this name. Professor Grensted and Commissioner Mertens were thereupon consulted in this case also. Both took the view this was a word of common gender which could be treated equally correctly either as masculine or feminine. Both recommended that usage should be followed in this case and therefore that the feminine gender should be adopted for this name. The letters so received are reproduced as Documents (1) and (2) respectively in Annexe B to the present paper.

5. It is accordingly recommended that the Commission give a Ruling that the feminine gender be attributed to the generic name *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834, in the entry relating thereto made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 92*.

6. *Summary*: The recommendation now submitted is therefore that the gender to be attributed to the under-mentioned generic names

placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 92* be the following :—(a) Masculine gender : *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821 (paragraph 3) ; (b) Feminine gender : *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834 (paragraph 5).

ANNEXE A

The gender of the generic name “ *Cryptobranchus* ” Leuckart, 1821 (Class Amphibia)

Document (1)

*Extract from a letter dated 15th February 1955, from
W. I. Follett (California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco,
California, U.S.A.)*

I am disposed to regard the generic name *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821, as of neuter gender for the following reasons :

1. The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia, Vol. 2, 1906, page 1380, states the derivation of *Cryptobranchus* as “ NL., Gr. *κρυπτός*, hidden, + *βράγχος*, in pl. equiv. to *βράγχια* gills ”.

2. Liddell and Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, Vol. 1, 1940 (1948 reprint), page 327, gives [line 14] *βραγχ* - . . . [line 19] *-ιον, τό*, fin . . . II. in pl., gills of fishes . . . [line 29] II. *βράγχος, τό*, in pl. = *βράγχια*, Opp. H. l. 160 ; but *βράγχος, ό*, in Ptol. Alm. 8. 1.

3. While the last half-dozen words in the preceding line apparently represent an exceptional masculine usage, an older edition of this work (Liddell and Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, Based on the German Work of Francis Passow, 1852, page 276), definitely stated that *βράγχος* is neuter, thus : *βράγχος, -εος, τό*=*βράγχια*, Opp. (akin to *ό βράγχος*).

4. Roland Wilbur Brown, “ Composition of Scientific Words ” 1954, page 329 (under “ fin ”) stated, “ Gr. *branchos*, n. fin, gill . . . , ” and on page 367 (under “ gill ”), “ Gr. *branchos* n. gill, fin . . . ” On page 6, “ n ” is stated to be the abbreviation for “ neuter ”.

I must add that in the event the foregoing views should be found to be correct, this fact must assuredly cause no sense of embarrassment on the part of the exceedingly capable teacher of classical languages who services you have employed on this project, since another word *βράγχος* (meaning “ hoarseness ”) is in fact masculine, as indicated by Liddell and Scott, 1940, page 327, and it would obviously be a

matter of mere conjecture for a non-zoologist to determine which of these two Greek words, of identical spelling, was intended by the author of the generic name.

Document (2)

*Extract from a letter dated 12th July 1955, from L. W. Grensted
(Consulting Classical Adviser to the Commission)*

Cryptobranchus : Here Dr. Follett has given all the evidence. The situation is curious. As the new Liddell and Scott Lexicon shows, the word βράγχος only occurs twice, in two late writers, Oppianus and Ptolemaeus—in not over-reliable texts—and one, Oppianus, makes it neuter and one, Ptolemaeus, makes it masculine. I can see no reason for preferring Oppianus, except that parts of the body ending in -os are, in Greek, sometimes neuter and sometimes feminine. The evidence of Ptolemaeus undercuts the opinion of R. W. Brown, cited by Dr. Follett. So far as Classical evidence goes, as attested by the latest and best Greek Lexicon, *-branchus* may be either masculine or neuter.

I think the Commission should give a decision based on current usage, citing the above evidence, which leaves the matter completely open.

Oppianus and Ptolemaeus are approximately contemporaries—late second century (or very early third) A.D. Neither has any precedence.

Document (3)

*Extract from a letter dated 13th July 1955, from Robert Mertens
(Forschungs-Institut und Natur-Museum, Frankfurt a.M., Germany)*

Cryptobranchus is derived from the Greek word βράγχος. Since βράγχος is masculine and *Cryptobranchus* is a latinised masculine form of it, I would regard *Cryptobranchus* as masculine, as it has hitherto universally been regarded.

ANNEXE B

**The gender of the generic name “ Eremias ” Wiegmann, 1834
(Class Reptilia)**

Document (1)

*Extract from a letter dated 12th July 1955, from L. W. Grensted
(Consulting Classical Adviser to the Commission)*

Eremias : This is coined on the model of Latin adjectival nouns, based on the Greek. It could be masculine or feminine according to its reference. Thus *Pelias* (a daughter of *Pelias*, masc.) is feminine.

Pelias (a spear with a shaft from Pelion) is feminine, because *hasta*, a spear, is feminine. *Eremias* means a desert-dweller (not classical) coined from *eremia* (ἐρημία), desert. It would take its gender from the type of animal involved, *serpens* is m. of f., *draco* m., *scorpio* m., etc. etc. Again I think it is open to the Commission to decide by usage.

There is, of course, a masculine presumption unless there is some feminine flavour in the animal intended.

Document (2)

Extract from a letter dated 13th July 1955, from Robert Mertens (Forschungs-Institut und Natur-Museum, Frankfurt a.M., Germany)

Eremias means "living in solitude" and is of Greek origin. According to our philologist colleagues *Eremias* can be used as masculine or feminine, but since it has hitherto been regarded as feminine I am in favour of this view being retained in future.

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Mr. Hemming's Report the question of the determination of the gender to be attributed to the generic names *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821, and *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1021.

II. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

3. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(56)1 : On 23rd January 1956 a Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(56)1) was issued in which each Member of the Commission was asked to state (1) whether he agreed that, "in conformity with the General Directive relating to the recording in the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the gender of each name placed thereon prior to 1948, issued to the International Commission by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, the genders severally specified in paragraph 6 of the paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1021 submitted by the Secretary simultaneously

with the present Voting Paper [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the Report reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Direction*] be entered in the foregoing *Official List* as the gender attributable to the generic names *Cryptobranchus* Leuckart, 1821, and *Eremias* Wiegmann, 1834, respectively”, and (2), if he did not agree as regards either of the items included in the recommendations specified above, to indicate that item.

4. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 23rd February 1956.

5. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(56)1 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(56)1 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Riley ; Boschma ; Holthuis ; Hering ; Bodenheimer (*Cryptobranchus* only) ; Mayr ; Vokes ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Mertens ; Jaczewski ; Kühnelt ; Key ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Stoll ; do Amaral ; Dymond ; Lemche ; Hankó ; Tortonese ; Hemming ; Prantl ; Bonnet ; Cabrera ; Miller ;

(b) *Negative Votes, one (1) (in part) :*

Bodenheimer (*Eremias* only) ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, one (1) :*

Esaki.

6. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 28th February 1956, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission,

acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(56)1, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 5 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

7. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present “ Direction ” :
On 12th June 1956, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(56)1.

8. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

9. The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction Fifty-Two (52)* of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twelfth day of June Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Six.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING